

## **EVANSVILLE COURIER PRESS**

New release is 'like coming home'

**October 13, 2005**

Many of the cuts on Martina McBride's new release, "Timeless," were hits before she was born. But the multiplatinum country star - known for possessing one of the most bodacious set of pipes in the business - had no trouble coming up with a list of her favorite country classics.

"Every time I hear this music, it feels like coming home," McBride said. "What I love about these songs is that they are like conversations. These lyrics are so simple, yet so eloquent."

More than 30 songs were recorded for "Timeless," and 18 of them made the final cut. For the first time in her career, McBride produced the album on her own; all tracks were recorded live, adding to the authenticity of the process.

"The band is every bit as important as I am to the sound and feel (of this record), and you can hear the joy they take in playing these songs and the love they have for them," she said.

The disc's first single is the 1970 Lynn Anderson hit, "Rose Garden."

"It's one of those songs that just makes you feel good and brings a smile to your face," said McBride, 39.

Other strong women are represented on the disc with songs that include Loretta Lynn's "You Ain't Woman Enough," Sammi Smith's "Today I Started Loving You Again" and Jeanne Pruett's "Satin Sheets."

During the recording of Tammy Wynette's "'Til I Can Make It on My Own," McBride had a special close encounter. "I could feel Tammy with me," she said. "I just felt like I had her blessing."

Additional tracks include Hank Williams' "You Win Again" and "Take These Chains From My Heart," Eddy Arnold's "Make the World Go Away" and the Everly Brothers' "Let It Be Me."

A member of the Grand Ole Opry for more than 10 years, McBride enlisted fellow Opry member Dolly Parton to provide harmony vocals on a Johnny Cash classic, "I Still Miss Someone."

And to mark the 80th anniversary of the Opry, McBride will perform a special one-hour concert on "Grand Ole Opry Live!" at 7 p.m. Oct. 22 on Great American Country.

McBride's partnership with her husband, John McBride, is both personal and professional. He's been mixing the sound at her concerts from the start, owns the studio where she records and served as an engineer on "Timeless." Brother Marty Shiff has been a guitarist in his sister's band from the start, and this new recorded effort marks his first participation as a member of her recording group.

"It was special to get to share this with my brother," McBride said. "We grew up making music together, and we have the same memories built around these songs."